

IN THE CLAIMS

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1. (CANCELLED)

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as claimed in claim 4, further comprising buffering the program being played through the entertainment system when the held call signal is received.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as claimed in claim 4, further comprising buffering the program being played through the entertainment system in response to a specific user request.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of managing calls through an entertainment system, comprising:

notifying by an entertainment system call manager, via a data network, a call management server residing in a telephony provider network to monitor calls on the telephony provider network for the entertainment system;

holding in the telephony-network-resident call management server a call on the telephony provider network for the entertainment system prior to routing the call to the entertainment system, in response to the notifying;

receiving in the entertainment system call manager a held call signal indicating a held call, during a program play by the entertainment system to a user, via the data network from the telephony-network-resident call management server;

presenting by the call manager a selectable call handling option chosen from a group comprising one or more of take the call, send the call to voice mail, forward the call to another number, play a message, ignore the call, and reject the call, in response to the held call signal through the entertainment system during the program play; and

handling the held call according to a call handling option selected by the user through the entertainment system and provided via the data network to the telephony-network-resident call management server; and

taking the held call directly at the entertainment system call manager, or sending the held call by the entertainment system call manager to a user voice mail at the user's premise, or both,
according to the held call handling option selected by the user.

5. (CANCELLED)

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The call management system as claimed in claim 9, further comprising a television buffering device connected to the subscriber entertainment system to buffer and record the television program played through the subscriber entertainment system in response to the held call signal transmitted from the television call manager when the call is held at the telephony-network-resident call management server.

7. (CANCELLED)

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The call management system as claimed in claim 9, wherein the call handling option for the selection are displayed through the subscriber entertainment system.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A call management system comprising:

a call management server residing in a telephony provider network and in communication with a subscriber entertainment system via Internet and/or cable data networks, and holding a call on the telephony provider network for the subscriber entertainment system prior to routing the call to the subscriber entertainment system; and

a television call manager connected to the subscriber entertainment system to receive a held call signal from the call management server via the data network indicating a held call during a program play by the subscriber entertainment system,

wherein the held call at the telephony-network-resident call management server is handled according to a selectable call handling option chosen from a group of call handling options comprising one or more of take the call, send the call to voice mail, forward the call to another number, play a message, ignore the call, and reject the call, and the television call

manager of the subscriber entertainment system transmits via the data network the selected call handling option is received by~~to~~ the telephony-network-resident call management server via the data network from the television call manager of the subscriber entertainment system, and
wherein the television call manager enables taking the held call directly at the television call manager, or sending the held call to a user voice mail at the user's premise, or both.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The call management system as claimed in claim 9, further comprising a remote control device in communication with the television call manager, wherein the subscriber selects the call handling option with the remote control device.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The call management system as claimed in claim 9, wherein the subscriber entertainment system comprises the television.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The call management system as claimed in claim 9, further comprising a television detector in communication with the television to detect when the television is on and to signal the telephony-network-resident call management server, via the data network, to route calls on the telephony provider network through the telephony-network-resident call management server.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The call management system as claimed in claim 9, wherein a caller identification corresponding to the held call at the telephony-network-resident call management server is provided, via the data network, to the television call manager of the subscriber entertainment system and displayed through the subscriber entertainment system.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The call management system as claimed in claim 9, wherein if the selected call handling option is to take the call, the telephony-network-resident call management server forwards the call via the telephony network to the television call manager of the subscriber entertainment system.

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The call management system as claimed in claim 14, wherein the held call at the telephony-network-resident call management server is answered via the telephony network through the subscriber entertainment system.

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The call management system as claimed in claim 9, further comprising a television buffering device connected to the subscriber entertainment system to buffer and record the television program played through the subscriber entertainment system in response to the call handling option selection, if the selected call handling option is to take the held call.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the held call at the telephony-network-resident call management server is a text message.

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the text message is displayed through the entertainment system.

19. (CANCELLED)

20. (CANCELLED)

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An entertainment system call manager managing calls through the entertainment system, comprising:

a telephony-network-resident call management server to hold a call on the telephony provider network prior to routing the call to a user's premise;

entertainment system means for processing data, including an audio and/or video program and for:

~~notifying from an entertainment system call manager, via a data network, at the call management server residing in the telephony provider network to monitor calls on the telephony provider network for the entertainment system; system means,~~

~~means for holding in the telephony network-resident call management server a call on the telephony provider network for the entertainment system prior to routing the call to the entertainment system, in response to the notifying;means for~~

~~receiving in the entertainment system call manager a held call signal indicating a held call, during a program play by the entertainment system means to a user, via the data network from the telephony-network-resident call management server;server,~~

~~means for presenting from the entertainment system call manager a selectable~~

call handling option chosen from a group comprising one or more of take the call, send the call to voice mail, forward the call to another number, play a message, ignore the call, and reject the call, in response to the held call signal through the entertainment system means during the program play, and play, and

means for handling the held call according to a call handling option selected by the user through the entertainment system means and provided via the data network to the telephony-network-resident call management server, including taking the held call directly at the entertainment system means, or sending the held call by the entertainment system means to a user voice mail at the user's premise, or both, according to the held call handling option selected by the user.

22. (CANCELLED)

23. (NEW) A method according to claim 2, wherein the buffering comprises wirelessly controlling by the entertainment system call manager a program buffer at a premise of the user to buffer the program.

24. (NEW) A system according to claim 9, further comprising:

a television buffering device at the user's premise and connected to the subscriber entertainment system to buffer and record a program played through the subscriber entertainment system,

wherein the television call manager wirelessly controls the television buffering device to buffer and record the program, when the television call manager receives the held call signal from the telephony-network-resident call management server.

25. (NEW) A system according to claim 9, wherein the television call manager comprises:

a telephone to directly take the held call; and

an audio and/or video processor to process input audio and/or video data from the telephone and/or from a broadcast center for the subscriber entertainment system.

26. (NEW) A method, comprising:

providing a telephony-network-resident call management server to hold a call on the

telephony provider network prior to routing the call to a user's premise;

providing a call manager communicably connected to an entertainment system at the user's premise, which processes data, including an audio and/or video program, to perform a process comprising:

to notify, via a data network, the call management server residing in the telephony provider network to monitor and hold a call on the telephony network for the user prior to routing the call to the user's premise,

to receive a held call signal indicating a held call, during a program play by the entertainment system to the user, via the data network from the telephony-network-resident call management server,

to automatically pause and record the program played through the entertainment system when the held call signal is received by wirelessly controlling a buffer at the user's premise,

to present through the entertainment system a selectable call handling option chosen from a group comprising one or more of take the call, send the call to voice mail, forward the call to another number, play a message, ignore the call, and reject the call, in response to the held call signal through the entertainment system during the program play,

to handle the held call according to a call handling option selected by the user through the entertainment system and provided via the data network to the telephony-network-resident call management server,

to take the held call, or to send the held call to a user voice mail at the user's premise, or both, directly at the call manager according to the call handling option selected by the user, and

to resume playing the program when the held call at the telephony-network-resident call management server is terminated.